

INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER1

Sample issue June 1986

Welcome to prospective members of the ISTUG, INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP. This newsletter is primarily to give us a common link for the exchange of ideas on how we can get the very most out of our ZX and TS computers and their peripherals. It is open to both questions and contributions from you, both members and audience. If you have an idea that may help users or a program, or need help to figure out how to get a program or piece of hardware to work properly, let us know.

I hope that those of you who made it to the 1st MIDWEST TIMEX SINCLAIR COMPUTER FEST enjoyed it and will be just as ready to attend the 2nd MIDWEST TIMEX SINCLAIR COMPUTER FEST. I had quite a bit in putting on the 1st one, as I originated the idea, worked on the committee and handled most of the publicity and the advertising. I now have been forming up a committee to handle the 2nd MIDWEST TIMEX SINCLAIR COMPUTER FEST. This one is going to be held in Indianapolis, next May.

Anyone out there who is interested in helping out to make this a reality is urged to contact me via mail at :

Frank W. Davis

315 East Main St.
Peru, Indiana 46970

A TS1500 A&J MICRO DRIVE PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Willie Jones

First let me introduce myself, and give credit to the man that made this article possible. My name is WILLIE JONES and the man who solved my problem is FRED NACHBAUR. He sells and writes software for SILICON MOUNTAIN COMPUTERS, formerly known as SYNCWARE COMPANY. I am the proud owner of a TS1500, A&J 1000 Micro Drive and TS1016 Rampack. But not all was happy. When I first connected the A&J, 1016, and 2040 printer and was ready to go, Little was I to know what was ahead for me. I then started to take all of my most used software and proceeded to put them on wafers. All was well UNTIL I tried to save my 27K PROFILE, and that was the start of all my problems.

Well, I should have had no problem, but was I fooled. To begin with the A&J ES05 (EXATRON STRINGY OPERATING SYSTEM) TAKES THE TOP 1K OF RAM FOR MANIPULATION OF THE ES05. For a 1500 plus the 1016 rampack, I should have had 32k, minus the 1k for the ES05, and you have 31k left. So a little math tells me I should have had 4k left to burn. boy was I surprised when all I got was verify BADS (a bad verify everytime you try to save a program in the upper part of memory).

It was no help when I changed 1016 Rampacks, then computers, and even sending my A&J Interface for a replacement, so with no luck I was at a standstill. However there is a way to use the A&J, but without a wafer directory or any type of management other than numbered saves, and that is in ECONOMY MODE.

In economy mode you have no way of knowing how much memory is left and you stand the chance of overwriting a program already on the wafer.

Now let me tell you why this whole problem arises and the way around the problem. The whole thing revolves around the 1016 ram pack. It seems that it is not fully decoded, so when the A&J tries to take ram to the top, it takes it beyond the 32k limit. Then when the ES05 tries to store its save check information and verification, it has nothing to compare with. Therefore giving a VERIFY BAD everytime you try to save a program in the upper part of memory.

Now for some good news, but first let me thank Fred Nachbaur once more for his help, without it I would not be writing this. The way around this trouble using the 1016 ram pack is to by-pass the ES05 RAM SET. To do that all you have to do is poke ram top to 31k or less. I use POKE 16388,0, then POKE 16389,188, then NEW. This gives me 31k. Now instead of using USR12345, use USR13082. This will put you into the ES05 and the A&J will work normally.

When I talked to Fred he said to poke ramtop to 192 for the full 32k, but he also said he had not tried this. So To make a long story short I tried and had no luck. But by leaving 1k open the system works great.

The reason for this is the ES05 needs the top 1k, by going past the RAM SET I think it effects the initialization process of the ES05.

Well, I hope I did not bore you and I hope this helps you A&J, TS1500 fans. I know it helped me.

Willie Jones

10120 E. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-577-7220

Our first meeting to get this group organized was held at Willie Jones house in May. Five people, including myself showed up. This was not too bad considering we held the meeting the day before the Indy 500 was supposed to run. The meeting mainly consisted of the 5 of us getting acquainted with each other and reviewing what type of hardware and software the others had. Now it is time to get down to really getting this user group off the ground and I do mean for real. We all have a lot to offer each other in the way of tips and general help and support in the pursuit of our computing hobby. So let us have more people show up at the next meeting, NONE OF US KNOWS SO LITTLE ABOUT COMPUTERS OR SO MUCH THAT WE CANNOT BENEFIT FROM GETTING ORGANIZED AND HAVE A BIT OF FUN AT THE SAME TIME.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THE 28TH OF JUNE, AT WILLIE JONES HOUSE. IT WILL BE AT 1:30 P.M. FOR DIRECTIONS GIVE WILLIE A CALL AT HIS NUMBER GIVEN IN THE ARTICLE ABOVE. For anyother call for general information about the group you can also call me, FRANK DAVIS at 317 473 4000 in the evenings.

HOPE to see each and everone or you there.

INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Sample issue July 1986

Welcome to the second issue of the ISTUG, Indiana Sinclair-Timex Users group. This newsletter is primarily to give us a common link for the exchange of ideas on how we can make better use of our TS and ZX computers and have a bit of fun at it, at the same time. Your contributions are welcome and appreciated, so lets hear from you. Our computers are not dead, they are as alive as you are willing to make them! Share that interesting program or routine or tip with the rest of us. Or simply ask questions...it is a great way to learn something.

I have a vendor warning that I feel I must share with the rest of you. It concerns the company called English Micro Connection, of 15 Kilburn Court, Newport, RI 02840. Last December I ordered a program from Bob Dyl, the owner of this company, it was Lords of Midnight. It arrived a few weeks later, but would not load. I tried 3 different tape players, a winky board, a Spectrum, TS2068 with Romswitch, TS2068 with Rainbow interface. Nothing would get it to load! So I called up Bob and he told me no problem, he would send out another the next business day. It never arrived, so a few weeks later I called again. He then told me that he had sent one out, but to the wrong Frank Davis, and would send out another. The story goes on and on with several more long distance calls and promises to send a replacement program. I spent far more than the price of the program with the postal cost of sending back the program plus the cost of the phone calls. The program has never been replaced. While at the Midwest Timex Sinclair Computer Fest I heard this same type of story from other people who had ordered Spectrum programs from English Micro Connection from both users and 2 dealers. Until Bob Dyl makes good on his obligation to me and others he has ripped off he holds a very low place in my estimate of vendors to be trusted. When and if he makes the proper restitution I will gladly let that be known. Meanwhile I am filing a complaint with the United States Postal Service accusing him of mail fraud.

At the next users group meeting I have some programs to give to the group, donated by Chris Borsa of Elkhart, Indiana. He has not made it to any meeting yet but wanted to make a contribution. They are all TS2068 programs and will become part of our user group library. My personal thanks to Chris!

At the next meeting, while I am on the subject, Joe Payne of Rushville, will be demonstrating his Zebra Disc Drive System on his TS2068 and Marvin Herman of Indianapolis, will be demonstrating his TS1000 and peripherals for it, along with bringing in for viewing his complete SYNTAX collection.

The date of the next meeting will be Saturday the 26th of July at 1:30 PM at Willie Jones house at 10126 E. 33RD Street, Indianapolis, In. 46236. For directions give him a call at 317-897-9225, or call me, Frank Davis at 317-473-4885.

There will be one more sample issue sent out next month for all the people on our mailing list. After that point the only issues sent out will be to members and to those non-members willing to pay a nominal fee to cover costs of paper and postage.

TS/ZX BASIC BLOCK DELETE

by Paul Holmgren

Here is a short utility program for the TS1000 and the TS1500, written by Paul Holmgren of Indianapolis. It enables you in basic to be able to block delete. I have not tried this on the ZX81, but assume that it will work on that computer as well.

The line numbers used are as an example only and you may assign any suitable line numbers that will fit your purpose.

```
100 LET S=PEEK 16425 + 256 * PEEK 16426 + 3
150 REM
200 LET L=E - S - 1
250 POKE S, INT (L/256)
300 POKE (S-1), (L-256 * PEEK S)
350 STOP
400 here is where you enter the lines you want to be removed
450 LET E= PEEK 16425 + 256 * PEEK 16426
500 GOTO 100
```

Line 100 is the top of the program, so when you get to line 500 be sure to tell it to GOTO whatever line number you have assigned as the top.

Hope that you TS/ZX users can find this routine of use and that we can talk Paul into sharing more of his programs and routines with us.

MTERM and the Spectrum Emulator

The first thing you must do in order to use MTERM with your ROMSWITCH or Rainbow Plus or Spectrum ROM is to lower the RAMTOP so you need a small loader program.

Write this small program and SAVE it using SAVE "MTERM" LINE 10.

```
10 CLEAR 53950: LOAD "" CODE RANDOMIZE USR 54016
```

Now load your original copy of MTERM and then exit to Basic and enter the following POKES.

```
POKE 54554,207: POKE 5455,255
```

Now save this version of MTERM by entering: SAVE "MTERM" CODE 54016,7721. Save this on the same tape you saved the short one line loader program on earlier. This program will now autorun for you and you will find it useful to erase the small loader program from the program buffer before you attempt to upload or download any material.

Credit for this short public domain procedure goes to Thomas Simons, Rick Conrad, David Mosher, and to Rick Duncan.

One more word of caution is that you will have 30100 useable bytes in your buffer, not the 32211 that the buffer controls say you have.

For those who are interested let me know if you need any assistance in converting this to run on a ROTRONICS WAFADRIVE. Write to Frank Davis, care of the users group, at 513 East Main St., Peru, In. 46970.

That is all for now, hope to see some more of you at the next meeting and hope to bring you an even better issue next month.

INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Sample issue August 1986

Welcome back to the world of computing in Indiana! I would first of all like to go over some of the items I have noticed going on in the area of TS/IX computers.

The first is the end of the Timex-Sinclair Magazine called SUM. This was one of my favorite computer mags and I learned a lot from it, however now they have been merged with TIME DESIGNS magazine and even though we will probably have a better mag...it is still one less than we had before. Both of the guys who put out SUM magazine got to the point that their careers were taking up a lot of their time and with the mag they were being stretched too thin. They will still be having some input into TIME DESIGNS, and I encourage you to subscribe.

The Second is that the price of the QL may be going back up. That is the word being put out by Knighted Computers. They have said in their latest sales flyer that as soon as their present stock is exhausted that they will be raising the price of the QL. I do not know if this is just them, or a universal happening. If you were wanting one and had been putting it off, now just may be a good time to check it out and if the price will soon be raised you may save some bucks by buying now.

The third item is that ISTUG now has its very own BBS, so those members who have modems with their computers now have one more access to data and friends. It is being run off of a TS2068 and the SY50P (systems operator) is our very own Willie Jones. The program being used was originally written by Randy and Lucy Gordon of the Cincinnati Timex-Sinclair Users Group. The program has been much improved upon by the hard work of Willie Jones, Paul Holmgren and Joe Payne. The number to call up via modem is 317-898-3903 (not 898-3906 as I erroneously told a few people I sent cards to recently). 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Another Indiana Timex BBS is operated by Mark Farmer of Clarksville, Indiana. It operates from 11:30 PM to 5PM daily and the number is 812-282-4023. Now all we need is to get a board going in the North part of the state and we can get our own network going. Give Mark a call and make a friend.

Here is the dues structure set up for ISTUG. For those who are too far away to attend meetings or out of state but would still like to be able to use the BBS and receive the newsletter plus have the technical support of the group on both hardware and software, the dues are \$7.50 a year. For full membership in the group which includes all of the above plus special saving on group buys on software, meetings and full use of the group library of books, mags and programs the cost is \$16.00 a year. The first three issues of the newsletter are being given out free. This is the third issue. All paid memberships of both kinds will start after this date. Any questions on this call me the Editor, Frank Davis, at 317-473-4885. Or you can leave a message to me on our BBS at 317-898-3903.

If you know of someone who would be interested in getting a free copy of our newsletter, let me know or have them call or write to me. For other User Groups we will do a free exchange of newsletters with them. When they do an exchange with us they will get the right to reprint material from our newsletter and we would like to have that reciprocated whenever possible. This way we can get a better spread of news. Good bye

ENGLISH MICRO CONNECTION

Just a short note to let all of you know. I mentioned some bad service on getting a refund or replacement on a faulty program I purchased from English Micro Connection. I called up the owner one more time and mentioned that I had turned it over to the Postal Inspectors and within a week he sent me a refund. He said he had sent out many refunds on Spectrum programs, which he no longer handles, and that I had somehow fallen through the net. It is finally over for me but it took almost nine months to get settled.

I am quite a user of Spectrum programs and would love to hear from anyone out there who has a good source of them or would like to sell or trade some they no longer need or want. It might even be a good idea for us to use our BBS to place personal ads to each other for used software and hardware.

TIMEX TS1000 SOFTWARE SALE

Thanks to Jack Payne we have an ample supply of original TS1000 software by Timex for sale at much reduced prices for members of ISTUG, all members. We will also have a supply of TS2040 paper at a low price. Members may pick up software at meetings for only a dollar a program, all new in cases with documentation. For those unable to attend, send a self addressed mailer and \$1.50 a program and we will mail them to you. Some examples of what we have are as follows: Budgeter, Checkbook Manager, Auto Analyzer, Organizer, IRA Planner, Coupon Manager, Stock option Analyzer, Vu-File, Stock Market Tech Analysis, List Manager, Super Math, States and Capitals, Flight Simulator, Language Usage, Presidents, Punctuation Master, Ator the ABC Gator, Capitalization Master, Total Triangles, Music Educator 1, Conversational German, French, Spanish, Spelling Bee, Fundamentals of Math, Doobarry Domino, Chess, Backgammon and Dice, Pinball, Gambler, Cube Game, Grimms Fairy Trails, Mixed Game Bag 1, Supermaze, Bigflap Attack, Ram Runner, Stock Market Game, Fortress of Zorlac, Trap, Strategy Football, Trident, Challenger, Mixed Game Bag 3.

That is quite a few programs for the old TS1000. Be sure to list alternates if you order through the mail, or if you do not want an alternate we will mail your check back in the mailer if postage is on it. Make checks out to Willie Jones as he is handling this for us. I hope this type service is helpful to all of you. Willie's address: 10126 E 33RD Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236. Postage should be 39 cents for the first program and 34 cents for each additional program.

LISTING SCANNER

by Paul Holmgren

Here is a short program of Paul's that was printed once before, only this time we will include the changes so that it will also run on the TS2068. If you get tired of listing a long program to find mistakes or to alter the program, then you will find it helpful. It may save your nerves and give you less eyestrain. This routine can be placed anywhere that is convenient in a listing, and uses about 200 bytes. In fast mode on the TS1000 it works great. Paul does not suggest using UAL within the loop because of its effect on the program speed.

LISTING SCANNER TS1000 & TS2068

```
10 LET D=VAL "16509"
15 CLS
20 LET G=PEEK D*256+PEEK (D+5GN PI)
25 LET D=D+VAL*4"
30 PRINT AT PI,4-LEN STR$ G:G:
35 IF PEEK D=126 THEN LET D=D+4
40 IF PEEK D=118 THEN LET G=NOT G
45 IF G THEN PRINT CHR$ PEEK D:
50 LET D=D+5GN PI
55 IF G THEN GOTO 35
60 IF PEEK D=118 THEN STOP
65 PAUSE D
70 GOTO VAL"15"
```

The above program as listed is for the TS1000, and I will now give you the changes to make to get it to run on the TS2068.

LINE 10 instead of 16509, substitute 26710.
line 35 instead of 126, substitute 14.
LINE 40 & LINE 60 instead of 118, substitute 13.

If you also want to have this listing printed out on a TS2040 printer, then change PRINT to LPRINT, and make one of the last lines to include 2 extra LPRINTs to space lines on the paper.

NEXT ISTUG MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by Jack and Joe Payne and will be in Rushville, IN on August 23 at 1:30 PM at the Occupational Development Center, 234 North Main. This is next door to Radio Shack. For those coming in by Highway #52 East, you turn North at the first stop light (Highway #3 which is also Main Street) and go one half block and the building is on the East side.

I hope to see as many of you there as possible and I know that the Paynes want to use this as a chance to rekindle some local interest in some Timex and Sinclair users in their area.

I, Frank Davis, will be demonstrating my ROTRONICS WAFADRIVE system, a dual 128K stringy floppy drive, with a Centronics Parallel and an RS232C interface, plus a SPECTRUM buss out the back.

Joe Payne is planning to show us how he has interfaced one of his TS2068's with a Heath HERO robot. That sounds interesting to me.

TIPS FOR WAFADRIVES and A&J 2000

Two tips for you, One is to always format your tapes more than once before using them, the reason for this being that the tapes can stretch a bit through normal use and you could later have difficulty with a tape this has not been done with. Also on both of these machines you do need to clean them the same as you would a tape recorder. I have had times the pid screen told me a wafer was not inserted and I could see ~~nothing on the screen~~ it was. When I cleaned the tape head the machine was ~~working~~ the tape was inserted.